

PUBLIC NOTICE



FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION

445 12th STREET, S.W.

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20554

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CITIZENS TELECOMMUNICATIONS COMPANY OF IDAHO AND QWEST CORPORATION SEEK A WAIVER OF THE DEFINITION OF "STUDY AREA" IN PART 36 OF THE COMMISSION'S RULES

PLEADING CYCLE ESTABLISHED

CC Docket No. 96-45

Release Date: August 10, 2000

Comment Date: August 24, 2000

Reply Comment Date: September 5, 2000

On July 11, 2000, Citizens Telecommunications Company of Idaho (Citizens) and Qwest Corporation (Qwest) filed a joint petition for waiver of the definition of "study area" as set forth in Part 36 of the Commission's rules. That definition constitutes a rule freezing all study area boundaries. Citizens is acquiring from Qwest approximately 10,000 access lines in Washington that are served by a Qwest central office located in Idaho. By this waiver, Qwest seeks to alter its Washington study area in order to remove the lines being transferred to Citizens. Citizens seeks a waiver of the study area freeze to combine these lines with the Idaho study area it is acquiring from Qwest.¹ The petitioners submitted an order from the Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission indicating that it has no objection to the issuance of a study area waiver associated with Citizens' acquisition of the 10,000 access lines.

Pursuant to sections 1.415 and 1.419 of the Commission's rules, 47 C.F.R. §§ 1.415, 1.419, interested parties may file comments on or before **August 24, 2000**, and reply comments on or before **September 5, 2000**. Comments may be filed using the Commission's Electronic Comment Filing System (ECFS) or by filing paper copies. *See Electronic Filing of Documents in Rulemaking Proceedings*, 63 Fed. Reg. 24,121 (1998). Comments filed through the ECFS can be sent as an electronic file via the Internet to <<http://www.fcc.gov/e-file/ecfs.html>>. Generally, only one copy of an electronic submission must be filed. If multiple docket or rulemaking

¹ Citizens is in the process of purchasing eight Idaho exchanges from Qwest, which comprise a complete study area in Idaho. In addition, Citizens currently provides service to 18 exchanges in Idaho, which comprise a separate study area. Citizens intends to maintain separate study areas in Idaho for the acquired Qwest exchanges and the current Citizens' exchanges.

numbers appear in the caption of this proceeding, however, commenters must transmit one electronic copy of the comments to each docket or rulemaking number referenced in the caption.

In completing the transmittal screen, commenters should include their full name, Postal Service mailing address, and the applicable docket or rulemaking number. Parties may also submit electronic comments by Internet e-mail. To receive filing instructions for e-mail comments, commenters should send an e-mail to ecfs@fcc.gov, and should include the following words in the body of the message, "get form <your e-mail address." A sample form and directions will be sent in reply. Parties who choose to file by paper must file an original and four copies of each filing. If more than one docket or rulemaking number appears in the caption of this proceeding, commenters must submit two additional copies for each additional docket or rulemaking number.

All filings must be sent to the Commission's Secretary, Magalie Roman Salas, Office of the Secretary, Federal Communications Commission, 445 12th Street, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20554.

Parties also must send three paper copies of their filing to Sheryl Todd, Accounting Policy Division, Common Carrier Bureau, Federal Communications Commission, 445 Twelfth Street S.W., Room 5-B540, Washington, D.C. 20554. In addition, commenters must send diskette copies to the Commission's copy contractor, International Transcription Service, Inc., 1231 20th Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20037.

Pursuant to section 1.1206 of the Commission's rules, 47 C.F.R. § 1.1206, this proceeding will be conducted as a permit-but-disclose proceeding in which *ex parte* communications are permitted subject to disclosure.

For further information, contact Adrian Wright, Accounting Policy Division, Common Carrier Bureau at (202) 418-7400, TTY (202) 418-0484.